

### Claims

1. A device for use in performing small-volume chemical reactions, **characterized** in that said device has a number of openings on one surface, individually connected to the same number of openings on the opposite surface, the grid of said openings  
5 corresponding to a first microtitre plate format on one surface and corresponding to a second, denser microtitre plate format on the opposite side.

2. Device according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the number of openings is  $96/n$ , where  $n$  is an integer chosen from 2, 4 and 6.

3. Device according to claim 2, **characterized** in that  $n$  is 4.

4. Device according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the first and second microtitre plate formats are the 96-well format and the 384-well format, respectively.

5. Device according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the first and second microtitre plate formats are the 384-well format and the 1536-well format, respectively.

6. Device according to any one of the claims above, **characterized** in that the device exhibits physical characteristics ensuring its correct assembly and orientation when used, said physical characteristics being chosen among colour codes and patterns; raised and corresponding depressed areas such as velts and grooves or pins and holes.

7. Device according to any one of the claims above, **characterized** in that it comprises one or more predisposed reagents.

8. A system for use in performing small-volume chemical reactions, **characterized** in that said system comprises a frame for holding at least two, preferably four devices according to any one of the claims above.

9. A method for performing small-volume chemical reactions, **characterized** in that a sample or reaction mixture is transferred from a first microtitre plate format to a second, denser microtitre plate format through centrifugation.

10. Method according to claim 9, **characterized** in that said first microtitre plate format is the 96-well format and said second microtitre plate format is the 384-well format.

11. Method according to claim 9, **characterized** in that said first microtitre plate format is the 384-well format and said second microtitre plate format is the 1536-well format.

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